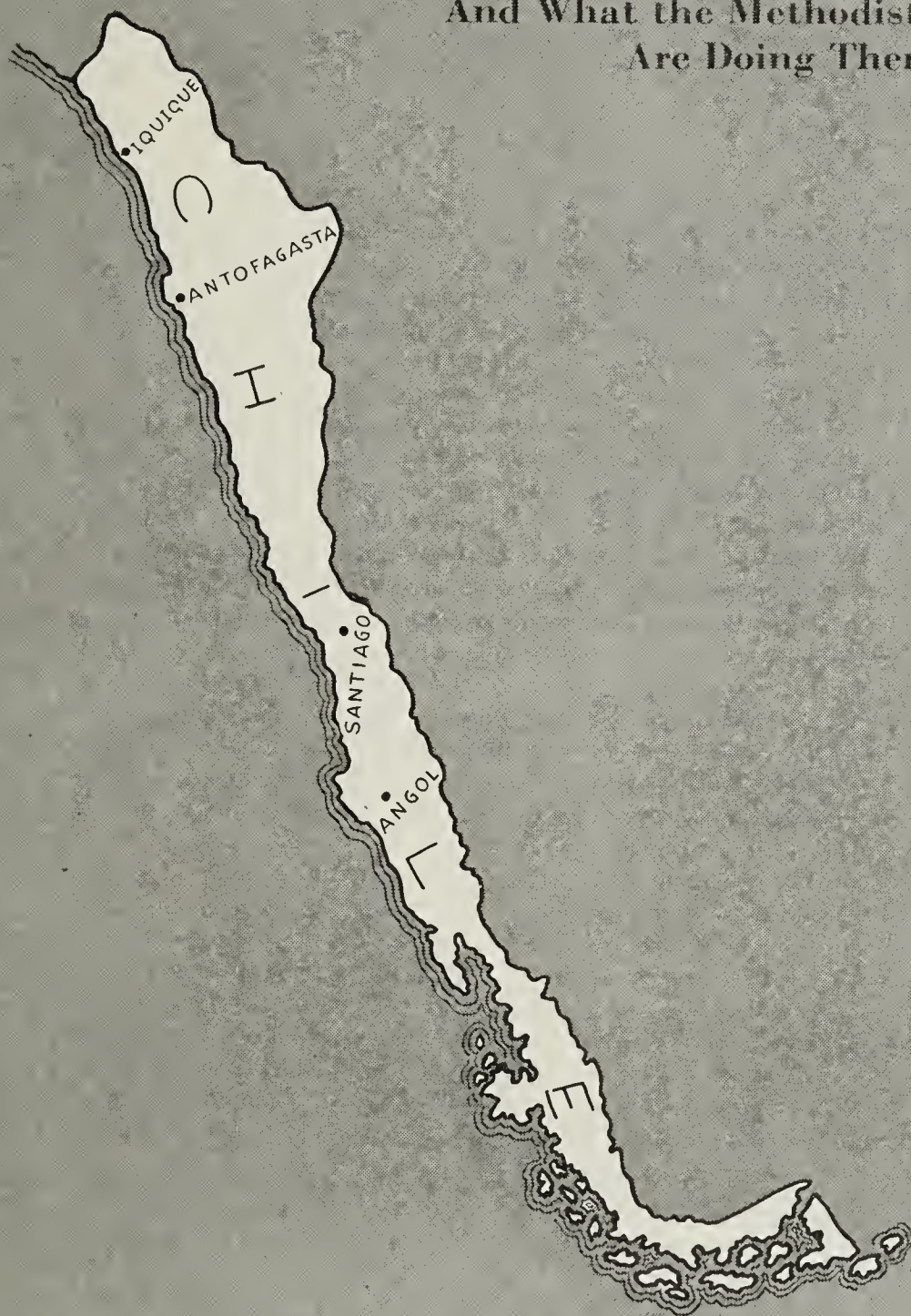


1202
The World Parish Series
Edited by Elmer T. Clark

CHILE . . .

And What the Methodists
Are Doing There



Editorial Department
Joint Division of Education and Cultivation
Board of Missions and Church Extension
150 Fifth Avenue, New York

In the present confused state of foreign affairs changes are constantly occurring, and this must be borne in mind in the interpretation and use of the material contained in any of the booklets of this series. The data have been checked and approved by the administrative secretaries and are regarded as approximately accurate as of May, 1941. Sources of information include the *Handbook of Methodist Missions* (prepared in mimeograph form for office use by the Foreign Divisions in 1940), *Year Book of The Board of Missions of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1940*, *The Church and The World Parish*, by Elmer T. Clark, *World Almanac*, 1941, the various standard encyclopedias, missionary histories and atlases, and the records and correspondence of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of The Methodist Church. Church statistics are from the *Minutes of The Annual Conferences* and are for 1939-40 unless otherwise stated. "F" or an asterisk (*) before or after the name of a missionary means "On furlough." "SF" means "Special furlough."

CHILE

The first white man to discover Chile probably was Fernao de Magalhaes (Magellan), who on a voyage around the world in 1520 passed through the straits which now bear his name. Valparaiso was founded in 1536 and Santiago in 1541.

Throwing off allegiance to Spain in 1810, a constitutional act was passed by Chile in 1812, the process of severance from Spanish rule was completed in 1818, and a constitution (a compromise between the British and American models) was completed in 1833. Final conquest of the Indians came about between 1860 and 1881. Chile has been fairly free from revolutions, but experienced one in 1890. Constitutional changes were made in 1891, 1923, and 1925. Church and State are separate; inviolability of the home and the freedom of the press are legally provided for.

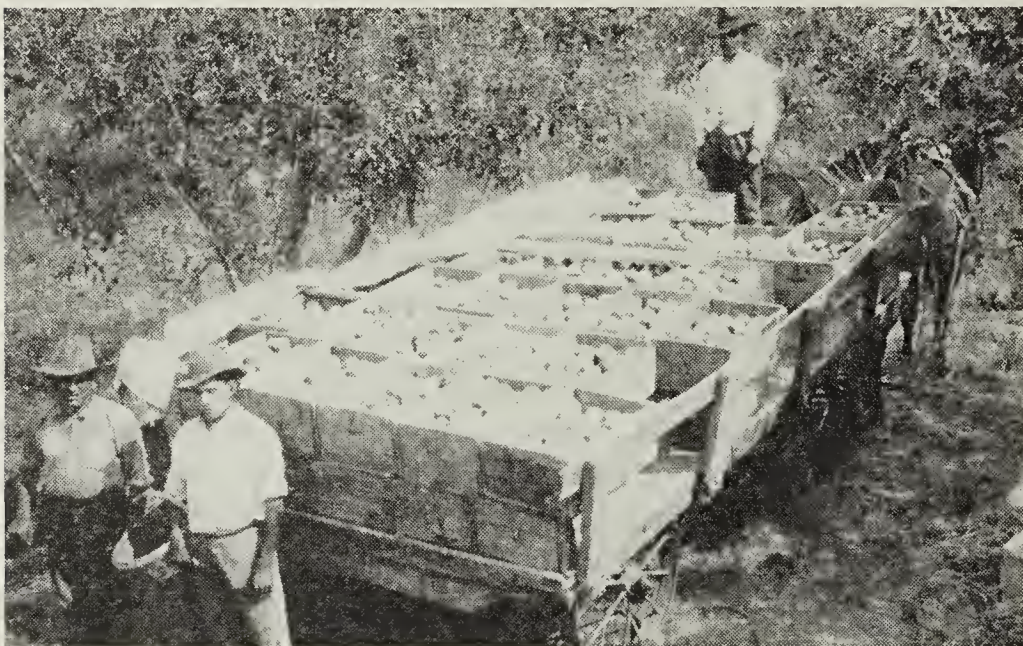
Chile is the longest country in the world in proportion to its area. The coastline, half the whole west coast of South America, is about 2,485 miles in length, but the average width of the country is only 110 miles. There are about fifty ports which carry on ocean commerce, but only a few harbors. The country has extremes of climate from waterless desert in the north to stormy Cape Horn, and extremes of altitude from the sea level to the tops of the Andes. The largest mining center in South America is a great copper camp at Chuquicamata. Of Chile's 24 provinces, 21 are along the high Cordilleras, seldom less than 12,000 feet, and in Aconcagua reaching more than 23,000 feet, the highest point in the western Hemisphere.

The area of Chile is about 155,500 square miles. The population is about 4,600,000. The majority are of European origin. The Indians belong to three groups: the Changos of the northern coast region who work as laborers, the Araucanians in the valleys or on the western slopes of the Andes, living on government reservations, and the Fuegians, mostly nomadic, living far to the south, in or near

Tierra del Fuego. The Chilean peasant is a descendant of the early Spanish conquerors and the Araucanian women.

Chile for many years produced the world's entire supply of nitrate of soda, 90 per cent of its iodine and nearly one-fifth of its copper.

There is free and compulsory education for children from 7 to 15, but illiteracy is still approximately 60 per cent. There is a high percentage of illegitimacy and an extraordinarily high death rate, about 60 per cent in the first year. In 1937 there were 4,663 public and private schools



An apple wagon in the orchards of El Vergel School and Farm at Angol, Chile

with 587,108 pupils, 10 normal schools with 1,597 pupils, 235 secondary schools with 44,199 pupils, 24 commercial schools with 3,054 students; also there were 6,270 university students.

Religion

The Roman Catholic Church, formerly maintained by the state and disestablished in 1925, is the dominant faith. "The power of the Roman Catholic Church to-day (in Chile) is, as it is in practically all countries of Latin America, largely social, and has been maintained only because the Church has made common cause with the

wealthy and influential families, to the almost complete spiritual neglect of the great bulk of the population. Although there are still many good men and women who believe in the Church, as a spiritual force it may be disregarded. . . . In recent years, especially since the separation of Church and State, the Church has sponsored a considerable amount of social work. . . .” Part of the Indian population is Catholic and part is still non-Christian.

Methodist Beginnings

In 1877-1878 Rev. William Taylor toured the west coast of South America seeking to establish English schools on



Santiago College at Santiago, Chile

a self-supporting basis. These schools, under competent teacher-pastors, were expected to provide the beginnings of evangelical work among the Latin peoples. When in 1884 Taylor was elected missionary bishop for Africa, this work in South America passed under the control of the Transit and Building Fund Society of Bishop Taylor's Self-supporting Missions. In 1893 the entire missionary property in Chile, estimated to be worth \$200,000 was offered to the Missionary Society on condition that the self-supporting principle be maintained. The offer was accepted,

but later experience proved the inadequacy of the methods of the founder.

The work in Chile was made a district of the Cincinnati Conference in 1890, but became part of the South America Annual Conference in 1893. The Western South American Conference was organized in 1897 and became an Annual Conference in 1901. In 1904 it was divided into the Andes (now Chile) Conference, the North Andes Mission, and the Bolivia Mission. It is now a Provisional Conference.

Institutions

Angol

El Vergel School and Farm

Antofagasta

American College

Iquique

Iquique English College

Santiago

Santiago College

Sweet Memorial Institute

Missionaries

Angol

Rev. Dillman S. Bullock, Director, El Vergel School and Farm

Mrs. Dillman S. Bullock, El Vergel School and Farm

Rev. Scott P. Hauser, Evangelistic and Social work

Mrs. Scott P. Hauser, Evangelistic and Social work

Antofagasta

Rev. Clarence R. Snell

Mrs. Clarence R. Snell

Rev. Leon Miller, El Vergel School and Farm

Mrs. Leon Miller, El Vergel School and Farm

Mr. Elbert E. Reed, El Vergel School and Farm

Mrs. Elbert E. Reed, El Vergel School and Farm

Iquique

Miss Ashsah M. Skinner, English College

Santiago

(F) Rev. Walter D. Carhart, Evangelistic work

(F) Mrs. Walter D. Carhart, Director of Sweet Memorial Institute

Mr. Charles A. Irle, Mission Treasurer

Mrs. Charles A. Irle, District work

Dr. George P. Howard, General Evangelistic work

Mrs. George P. Howard, General Evangelistic work

Miss Muriel E. Leach, Santiago College

(F) Miss Lillian Paustian, Santiago College

Miss Jennie M. Smith, Santiago College

Miss Florence Prouty, R.N., Sweet Memorial Institute

Miss Helen Almira Scutt, Santiago College

Status of the Church

Full members	3,140	Parsonages	29
Preparatory members	1,959	Value	\$ 22,450
Pastoral charges	28	Church Schools	70
Local preachers	67	Enrolment	5,581
Church buildings	42	Ordained ministers	20
Value	\$151,070	Missionaries	20

